



# Town of Poughkeepsie

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Poughkeepsie, NY 12603

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**Date:** Wednesday, May 27, 2020

**Time:** 5:00 PM

**Location:** Zoom Meeting

**Purpose:** Comprehensive Plan Committee Meeting #19

**Comprehensive Plan Review Committee Attendance:** Jeff Renihan, Ann Shershin, Yvonne Laube, Carl Whitehead, Maribeth Rubenstein, James Challey, David Silver

**Consultant Attendance:** Bonnie Franson, Adriana Beltrani

**Town Staff Attendance:** Kristen Taylor, Mike Welti

**Members of the Public Attendance:** Connor Gillis, Rick Reilly, Christine Di Grandi Jones, John Greenan, Daniel Staley, Fred Cantor

AGENDA ITEM	NOTES	TASK
<b>Welcome and Agenda Review</b>	Chairman Carlos was absent, and the meeting was opened.	N/A
<b>Committee Business</b>	Mr. Welti noted that two pieces of correspondence have been received from a member of the public and the Dutchess County Board of Realtors. He also had spoken to the grant manager at the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) with regard to funding for the comprehensive plan and everything was still on track. The Town will have another grant with NYSDEC to prepare an Open Space Plan through funding through the Hudson River Estuary Program. It is intended to be an element of, and will implement, recommendations of the Comprehensive Plan.	N/A
<b>CPRC Facebook Page</b>	The Facebook page has been created. Thanks to those CPRC members that helped to launch it. CPRC members were reminded to follow and like the page and share it with their own "friends". It also has the public survey on it with a link, and everyone is encouraged to get their contacts to take the survey to increase the response rate. The Facebook post regarding the survey should be shared with other Poughkeepsie Facebook sites. Ms. Beltrani shared the link in the chat section of the zoom meeting.	<i>Follow-up with an email blast about the page being online.</i>  <i>Committee members to share the post regarding the survey on their own Facebook page.</i>
<b>Public Workshops Alternatives</b>	The CPRC continues to discuss the remote workshop and how to engage the public. Some members thought this format and technology is especially good for information gathering and sharing. Some consideration should be given to having breakout rooms. This would require that those who run the breakout rooms know how to navigate zoom.	<i>NPV to work with Town staff to review the previously proposed workshop agenda and work</i>

	<p>Mr. Welti indicated that the Town’s zoom account is pretty robust but does not have all the add-ons – it would be best to conduct the meeting as a webinar especially if there are many attendees. He mentioned that the Planning Board meetings have had up to 60 persons in attendance at peak, and it is many people to track. Further, if a limited number of persons attend, breakout rooms may not be necessary. The approach depends in part on the number of participants.</p> <p>The webinar approach allows polling. It was suggested that it should start with simple poll questions such as where do you live and what is your age, in order to determine who is participating. The meeting can be recorded and would be posted on YouTube with a link to the Facebook page. This allows for more people to view the webinar.</p> <p>It was suggested that follow up presentations could be made – couple of questions the CPRC would like responses to, on a continuing basis. Mr. Silver indicates round robin workshops and smaller format topical workshops may be more appropriate than an exhaustive workshop. One can control the amount of time to the topic.</p> <p>Ms. Laube reminded the CPRC that the CPRC already had workshops, but have not yet met all parties. What are we looking to get from the participants of this workshop? The earlier workshops had light attendance.</p> <p>Mr. Welti indicated that it would be useful to share the draft vision and goals, and add details about the recommendations. For example, could present open space and recreation goals, and give examples of conservation and preservation methods, so that it is educational. We need to morph the in-person workshop content to one that works well for a webinar. Vision and goals are the big picture topics, and a good way of organizing the presentation.</p> <p>Also, perhaps a visual preference survey could be done, for example, ideas about the design of town centers.</p> <p>It was also suggested that a series of survey monkey questions could be circulated. Need to differentiate from the current survey that is still open.</p> <p>Mr. Renihan recommended that the CPRC look at Slido application and see if it might be appropriate for the workshop.</p> <p>Mr. Welti stated that setting up for this type of workshop will be more challenging – it is quite a bit of work. When should it be held? Most favored the end of June. It should be an evening meeting, as people will be back to work as</p>	<p><i>stations, and determine how they could be converted to a webinar type event.</i></p> <p><i>Will establish a test meeting with a few people to work out the format and assign roles and responsibilities.</i></p>
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	<p>businesses continue to open up. Mr. Welti did note that he would have to communicate with the Committee Chairman who was not present.</p> <p>Everyone agreed the process needed to move forward, and we need to adopt to the realities of PAUSE. We need to be flexible as the PAUSE requirements change.</p>	
<p><b>Farmers Market; Additional Outreach</b></p>	<p>Ms. Shershin and Mr. Whitehead will be at the Farmers Market to provide outreach materials, if possible.</p> <p>As retailers open up, and allow for curbside pickup, it would be useful to hand out flyers throughout the community about any workshop and/or the survey.</p>	<p><i>CPRC members will attend to distribute flyers, if possible.</i></p> <p><i>Need to hand out flyers as businesses open to post in windows, etc.</i></p>
<p><b>Discuss Existing Conditions Report: Natural Resources</b></p>	<p>CPRC comments include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Reference was made to converting abandoned landfills into meadow habitat. A large one exists on Van Wagener Road. It has been abandoned and is not operating. Who would do the plantings? Ms. Franson mentioned they are excellent locations for solar facilities. The one on Burnett Boulevard – not practical to plant or have a solar farm. Plantings could be interim measure. Another landfill is where the Pysch Center is. It has been cleaned up but they are not building on it. Underhill solar is accommodating pollinator habitat. This is a Hudsonia Report recommendation.</li> <li>▪ Ms. Rubenstein really appreciated the discussion of rare plants and animals, and made her think about what assets the Town has – she wonders if it is promoted as such</li> <li>▪ The section did not mention anything about deer management. It is a large problem in Poughkeepsie. Vassar College every year has a culling, and the meet is used at the food pantries. On Peach Hill, invasive plants take over because the deer browse the native plantings.</li> <li>▪ The Committee discussed funding mechanisms for open space protection. CAC is presently preparing an open space inventory (OSI). The Town previously tried to create an open space tax but it was determined to be illegal. Bonding is another method for open space funding. It was noted that the County has its own open space fund. Cider Mill received</li> </ul>	<p><i>CPRC to send comments to Ms. Taylor and Mr. Welti. The comments will be organized, consolidated, and sent to NPV in order to refine the existing conditions report.</i></p> <p><i>The CPRC meetings will continue with the review of other sections of the draft Existing Conditions Report.</i></p> <p><i>It will be ultimately used for SEQRA purposes as well as the Comprehensive Plan.</i></p>

	<p>funding from the County. Ms. Franson recommended that the Town should seek out “rights of first refusal” on those properties it would like to acquire.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The Warwick Purchase of Development Rights program was mentioned and it was noted that they have a Community Preservation Plan in place and a real estate transfer tax to collect funds for open space. It has to be passed by referendum, once state enabling legislation is adopted. As a side note, Warwick Grove was mentioned as a center type of development – Ms. Franson mentioned it was based on a concept developed by Andre Duany and DPZ which are founding members of the New Urbanism movement.</li> <li>▪ In general, there should be an emphasis on the Town’s waterways, and what wonderful amenities they provide. Ms. Beltrani noted she was struck by how many plans there have been for waterways and linear pathways to be developed along them. City of Poughkeepsie has been trying to work out a walkway along the Fallkill which could be extended into the Town. A walkway along Wappinger Creek may be possible where the Town owns a lot of land. It may be that the trail weaves along the water and back to a road or sidewalk where private property exists. Locations included where Eastdale Village is, and may there should generally be a workshop on nodes and linkages. One example would be to get from Arlington to Red Oaks Mill creek. The Eastdale Trail follows a narrow creek. Ms. Franson noted NPV would check what is occurring in adjoining Towns for potential linkages. Map 12 shows a new park.</li> <li>▪ Critical environmental areas were discussed and the benefit of designating areas as CEAs. The Town only at this time designates its brownfields (contaminated sites) as CEAs, but they also apply to important habitat patches, e.g., along the Casper Kill where an important habitat patch is noted.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Discuss Existing Conditions Report: Utilities</b></p>	<p>This topic was not on the agenda, but CPRC comments include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• P. 119, existing wells that Town owns, and reference that it could be used for water supply. It has been a long time since these were tested, and last time used had a high salt content, and high enough that it shouldn’t be consumed by persons on salt restricted diets. They are marginal at best and include the</li> </ul>	<p><i>Follow up with the Poughkeepsie water department regarding well water quality.</i></p>

	Frank wells. They were heavily pumped in the 1990s and it is represented that they had higher salt content than the Hudson River.	
<b>Public Comment</b>	<p>Christine Jones – with the Dutchess County Board of Realtors. She expressed concern with the concept of the real estate transfer tax concept for open space preservation. It adds cost to someone wanting to purchase a modestly priced dwelling. Ms. Franson indicated that this is only one of many tools for open space preservation that are required to be part of a Community Preservation Plan, which is required to be adopted before a community can pursue a referendum on whether to allow the tax. Also, the preservation of open space in a community also enhances real property values.</p> <p>Dan Staley – President of the County Association of Board of Realtors – there are homeowners rights, and taxes are high as it is. Real estate transfer tax is a one-time tax on the sale of a dwelling, and any tax is subject to a referendum of the property owners in the community.</p>	N/A
<b>Adjournment</b>	The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, 6/24 at 5:00 PM via Zoom.	<i>June Zoom meeting information is forthcoming via the agenda on the Town Meetings webpage.</i>

Thank you,

*Michael A. Welti*

Michael A. Welti, Director of Municipal Development

The Town of Poughkeepsie gratefully acknowledges the State of New York for providing funding support for the preparation of its Comprehensive Plan. The opinions, results, findings and/or interpretations of data contained herein are solely those of the Town of Poughkeepsie and do not necessarily represent the opinions, interpretation or policy of the State of New York.

Attachment A  
Meeting Agenda



**Town of Poughkeepsie  
Comprehensive Plan Review Committee (CPRC)  
Committee Meeting #19  
Wednesday, May 27, 2020 @ 5:00 PM**

***ZOOM CONFERENCE CALL***

\*\*THIS MEETING WILL BE HELD ONLINE AND TELEPHONICALLY ONLY\*\*  
TOWN HALL **WILL NOT** BE OPEN.

Until further notice, in accordance with Governor Cuomo's Executive Order 202.1 and subsequent executive orders which prohibit non-essential public gatherings of any size, all CPRC meetings will be held via videoconference utilizing the Zoom platform. The public is welcome to view the videoconference and participate in the meeting by logging in to the Zoom platform via computer or smartphone using the information below. There is also an option to listen and participate by telephone.

**Join Zoom Videoconference Meeting:**

<https://zoom.us/j/97809819604?pwd=dGVCNDFCajMvaThHaXdldGJyWTFtdz09>

**Meeting ID:** 978 0981 9604

**Password:** 174218

**Join Zoom Meeting via Telephone:** 1-929-205-6099

**Meeting ID:** 978 0981 9604

**Password:** 174218

**AGENDA**

- I. Welcome and Agenda Review
- II. Committee Business
- III. Comprehensive Plan Update Facebook Page
  - a. Search "Town of Poughkeepsie Comprehensive Plan Review Committee"
- IV. Webinar for Zoom – Discuss Workshop Potential
  - a. NPV to discuss webinar functionality in Zoom
  - b. Revisit and discuss public workshop #1 "stations"
  - c. Identify timeline and marketing strategy
- V. Meeting Topic Area: Natural Resources and Open Space
  - a. Existing conditions report content
  - b. Draft goals and objectives within this topic area
- VI. Other
  - a. Letter from DC Association of Realtors
- VII. Next Meeting June 24, 2020
- VIII. Public Comment
- IX. Adjournment

Comprehensive Plan Review webpage:

<http://townofpoughkeepsie.com/planning/cprc/index.html>

Committee email address:

[CPRC@TownofPoughkeepsie-ny.gov](mailto:CPRC@TownofPoughkeepsie-ny.gov)

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